



July 30, 2019

Re: Project Heart

To whom it may concern:

Our students and families of the Jewish Faith have been blessed by Project Heart, especially by Rabbi Benny Zippel's excellent work in providing support, guidance, and activities for our students and parents. The journey of therapy away from home is difficult and challenging yet offers promise and hope. Rabbi Benny offers promise and hope.

Rabbi Benny attends our campus each Wednesday afternoon to meet with our students. During this time together he provides spiritual and religious guidance to the students. This is very helpful to the therapeutic process they are engaged in to have this critical additional support in their journey. Students are not able to have full access to Jewish services as they previously might have at home. Rabbi Benny does a great job providing services here. These weekly meetings make a significant difference in their effort to become whole and healthy again.

I appreciate the excellent listening ear, support, and nurturing direction that Rabbi Benny provides to the parents of our Jewish students. Understandably, there are a lot of fears experienced by parents having their child in treatment so far from home. And in an environment significantly different from their own home environment. Rabbi Benny is a source of comfort and strength to these parents. He provides helpful feedback and support about the therapeutic journey due to his 25+ years of work here.

Synagogue provides a religious home away from home for our Jewish students to participate in activities and holidays. Project Heart offers a wonderful support to our students to participate in these events which is a comfort in their journey and a respite from the hard work associated with a therapeutic journey.

I value Rabbi Benny's feedback and input with the work we do here, especially those of his faith. His insights and understanding helps us to be more effective in supporting our Jewish families.

I support Project Heart and Rabbi Benny's tireless work in being there for our students and their families. In addition to the Rabbi's time, Project Heart funds his ability to be here weekly as well as activities at the synagogue. New Haven is fortunate to have Rabbi Benny Zippel.

Sincerely,

John L. Stewart, LCSW  
CEO